



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Billington et al.
Serial No. : 09/543,164
Filed : April 5, 2000
Title : MONEY ACCEPTANCE METHOD AND APPARATUS

Art Unit : 3652
Examiner : J. Shapiro

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

In response to the action mailed July 19, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

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GROUP 3600

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 21-24.

Unamended claims appear in small print and italics for ease of reference.

8. *A vending machine having display means arranged to give first and second indications that insufficient change may be available to a customer making a purchase, the first indication being given as a warning prior to a transaction being initiated, and the second indication being given after a transaction has been initiated, each indication being produced in response to the detection of a respective set of conditions.*

9. *A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, which is operable to accept monetary units in a plurality of denominations, and to dispense change in at least one of said denominations but not in at least one further denomination, wherein a first indication is given when the amount of available change in the machine is less than the value of the highest-value further denomination monetary unit.*

10. *A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a second indication is given after a product is selected for vending in dependence on a comparison of the money available for change and the price of the selected vend item.*

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

October 19, 2001

Date of Deposit

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